

August 5, 2016

The BRADDOCK BEACON

A Monthly Newsletter from Braddock
District Supervisor John C. Cook

Volume 8 | Issue 8

Supervisor Cook Joins Community in Celebration of National Night Out

On August 2, Supervisor Cook joined various community organizations in recognition of National Night Out, an event celebrated across the country that is organized to show citizen solidarity with police against crime and criminals. In order to meet with as many of his constituents as possible, Supervisor Cook attended the celebrations at Kings Park, Burke Centre, Middleridge, Olde Forge/Surey Square, Rutherford Pool, and Stone Haven. He was pleased to see so many residents come out with their families and friends to enjoy this event with the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD).

National Night Out has long been a staple of community involvement and communication, and Supervisor Cook was very excited to join FCPD Lieutenant Eli Cory at this event, who was a huge help. Mutual trust between the community and police is pivotal to building thriving and crime-free neighborhoods. The participation of our police force in events like these underscores our status as the safest jurisdiction of our size in the United States.



Supervisor Cook has served on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors since 2009 and lives in Kings Park with his wife and SIX children.



Supervisor Cook Calls on VDOT to Perform Additional Grass Mowing

At the behest of Supervisor Cook, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has sent a [letter](#) to the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), strongly urging it to increase the frequency of grass mowing from three to six times per year...
([continued on page 5](#))

County Department of Code Compliance Launches Informational Webpage

The Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance has launched an [informational web page](#) to help residents identify what is and isn't the responsibility of the Department, as well as who to contact if an issue is not covered by the Department...(continued on page 5)

Workhouse Brewfest to Take Place Aug. 13

In partnership with Celebrate Fairfax, Visit Fairfax, and Fairfax County Government, the Workhouse is presenting its inaugural BrewFest. The event will feature nearly 100 craft brews by 30 breweries. The day will feature a dozen bands performing on three stages, numerous food trucks, lawn games, and much more. Brewfest will take place on August 13 from noon to 6 p.m. For more info and tickets, visit workhousebrewfest.org.

Save the Date- Supervisor Cook to Host Town Hall

On October 15, 2016, Supervisor Cook will be hosting a Town Hall event at Finance Park next to Frost Middle School from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.. Residents of the Braddock District are encouraged to attend and learn leadership strategies and county information. More information will be forthcoming as we approach the event.

This Month in the Braddock Beacon...

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Questions? Comments? Ideas? Call Supervisor Cook's office at **703-425-9300** or email us at Braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov



A NOTE FROM OUR WEST SPRINGFIELD POLICE CAPTAIN

The men and women of the West Springfield District Police Station are profoundly grateful for the wealth of support and sympathy that we have received from our beloved community over the past two weeks following the tragic events in Dallas and Baton Rouge. We have received so many expressions of appreciation for our service to the community. On behalf of our sworn, civilian and volunteer members, I thank our community for sharing their time, talents and treasure with us.

-Captain Gervais Reed



The Braddock Beacon

Public Safety Update

The last Board of Supervisors' Public Safety Committee meeting was held on July 19, 2016. The Board began discussion and deliberation of the issue of transparency and citizen oversight. Last summer, the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission recommended that both an external auditor and a civilian review panel be put into place. It is suggested by the Commission that the external auditor would review police use of force investigations, after the Fairfax County Police Department's internal affairs investigation to ensure properly policy and protocol were followed. The Civilian Review Panel would offer Fairfax residents an alternative way to communicate concerns or complaints regarding police force or improper conduct. Many suggested details have yet to be determined, but the Board of Supervisors is carefully reviewing the recommendations. The Braddock Beacon will keep you updated on the very next steps.

Metro SafeTrack Update

Metro has been performing significant track maintenance that will accelerate three years' worth of work into approximately one year. The plan, called SafeTrack, expands maintenance time on weekends, weeknights, and midday hours, and includes 15 "Safety Surges", which are long-duration track outages for major projects in key parts of the system. Because of this constant track work, all commuters should expect heavy delays and crowding at Metro stations, and on all major commuting corridors in Northern Virginia including I-66, I-495, Dulles Toll Road, and I-95. All commuters are urged to telework, rideshare and use alternate transit options [detailed](#) online.

The next surge, which begins August 9 and will end August 18, will consist of single tracking between Shady Grove and Twinbrook Stations. Riders will experience severely reduced service at many Red Line stations. Metro closes at midnight seven days a week for the duration of all safety work.

During most of these track outages, the Fairfax Connector Bus will provide [supplemental express service](#) on existing routes or on rush-hour shuttles. Metro has posted a comprehensive schedule of all Safety Surges [online](#).

Preventing Mosquitos around the Home

Mosquito season is here and these pests are not just a nuisance, but can also transmit viruses such as West Nile, Chikungunya and Zika. Now is the perfect time to eliminate potential breeding sites in and around your yard where mosquitoes like to lay their eggs. Prevent mosquitoes around your home and neighborhood and protect yourself from their bites by taking the following steps this spring, summer and fall:

- **Eliminate standing water.** Tip and toss standing water from containers like tires, buckets, flower pots, corrugated drain pipes, tarps, bird baths, toys, etc. Discard containers or place indoors.

- **Treat standing water with a larvicide if it cannot be eliminated.** Mosquito-specific, environmentally-friendly larvicides for standing water are available for free at Supervisor Cook's office.
- **If mosquitoes are biting, you may want to treat your yard with an insecticide.** Used carefully and properly, an insecticide for your yard can help control biting mosquitoes. Insecticides for your yard are available at your local hardware or home and garden store.
- **Organize a neighborhood clean-up.** Get rid of litter and debris, discard old tires and manage vegetation that mosquitoes may be using as hiding places.

Keeping mosquitoes away from your home is not only good for your quality of life; it's good for your health! For more information, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fighthebite>, call 703-246-8931 or email fighthebite@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Braddock Neighborhood News

Supervisor Cook hosts a monthly television show, Braddock Neighborhood News, on Fairfax County Channel 16, which is available on most cable networks. Each month, Supervisor Cook invites topical guests to share pertinent and informative items with the viewers.

It's summertime, and although you may have momentarily escaped to the beach or your favorite vacation spot, here in Fairfax County, it's hot. The heat and humidity are usually both very high during summer, which invites those little pests we all hate: mosquitos. This month, Supervisor Cook invited Health Department physician Dr. David Wilder and Joshua Smith from the Disease Carrying Insects Program to tell the audience how Fairfax County is working to help prevent transmission. The show airs throughout the month and can be seen Sundays at 5 p.m., Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Fridays at 5 p.m. The shows can also be viewed online on [Supervisor Cook's Youtube Channel](#).



Supervisor Cook sits down with Joshua Smith and Dr. David Wilder from the Health Department to discuss ways to prevent Zika here in Fairfax County.

Supervisor Cook Calls on VDOT to Perform Additional Grass Mowing

(Continued from page 2) now that they have received higher levels of funding in their maintenance and operations budget. Supervisor Cook believes that mowing the grass more often would make the County look well

maintained, raise property values, and heighten motorist safety. The move was well received by the Board, which voted unanimously to send the letter. The media source [Inside Nova](#) also reported on the letter.

County Department of Code Compliance Launches Informational Webpage

(Continued from page 2) New information will be continuously added, and residents are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the information on the page should an issue ever arise. If you have any questions about the information on the website, call the Department at 703-324-1300.

Cook in the Community

Animal Control Officer Ceremony – On July 1, Supervisor Cook attended a ceremony at the Government Center for Fairfax County Animal Control Officers who were being transitioned into their new role as Animal Protection Police Officers. Under this new role, Animal Protection Police will have the very same powers vested in them as other Fairfax County Police Officers and will be entitled to similar benefits.

Vacation – During the first couple weeks of July, Supervisor Cook and the whole Cook clan enjoyed a little rest and relaxation in the Northeastern part of America.

Best of Braddock – On July 13, Supervisor Cook, along with the Braddock District Council, hosted the Annual Best of Braddock Awards in Braddock Hall.

Braddock Nights – The Braddock Nights Concert Series officially started on July 8, but on July 15, Supervisor Cook was glad to attend his first two concerts of the season at Lake Accotink Park and Rutherford Parks.

FABB Meeting – On July 20, Supervisor Cook was invited to speak at one of the regular meetings of FABB, the Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling. During the meeting, Supervisor Cook spoke about many issues including bike lanes and bicycling in Braddock.

DVPPCC – On July 21, Supervisor Cook was pleased to attend his first meeting as Chairman of the Domestic Violence, Prevention,



Supervisor Cook presents Charles Osborne, previous President of the Braddock Road Youth Club, with a resolution honoring BRYC on its 50th

Braddock Nights T-Shirt Challenge! If you are looking for fame and glory among the Braddock District, send us a picture of you wearing your Braddock Nights T-Shirt! We will post it on social media and our office wall of fame! Brownie points for exotic locations- such as your favorite vacation spot!



Supervisor Cook and Boy Scout Troop 1965 of the Lake Braddock Community, who received a Best of Braddock Award for a Club or Organization

Policy and Coordinating Council. He's been a member of this group since 2013 and looks forward to continuing to serve in his new role as Chair.

BRYC 50th Anniversary – On July 30, Supervisor Cook was pleased to be able to attend and present a plaque at the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Braddock Road Youth Club which was held at Robinson Secondary School.

Human Services Corner

Supervisor Cook Holds First Meeting as Chair of the DVPPCC

The inaugural meeting with Supervisor Cook as the Chairman of the Domestic Violence Prevention, Policy and Coordinating Council (DVPPCC) took place on July 21. Supervisor Cook announced that he would like for the Council to focus on improving communication, outreach, and transitional housing for domestic violence victims and families. Raising awareness, informing the community of the severity of domestic violence, and encouraging others to help eliminate the problem are challenges the DVPPCC strives to address.



Supervisor Cook held his first meeting as Chair of the Domestic Violence Prevention, Policy and Coordinating Council.

One notable accomplishment of the Fairfax County Domestic Violence Community is the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP). Launched on July 1, 2015 and based off a model originally developed in Maryland, the LAP aims to reduce domestic violence-related fatalities by connecting victims with support services as soon as possible. LAP is a Fairfax County partnership between the Office for Women and Sexual & Domestic Violence and the FCPD. October is Domestic Violence Awareness month and many activities and events will be taking place. The Braddock Beacon will feature many opportunities for you to get involved and help make a valuable difference to our friends and neighbors who could use a helping hand.

Be a Senior Olympian!

Registration is open for the 2016 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics which runs September 10-21 at various locations throughout the county. The cost is just \$12 and covers multiple events. For details and registration options, go to www.nvso.us. Plus, you don't want to miss the interview with Jim MacKenzie, chairman of the Northern Virginia Senior Olympics, on Fairfax 50+ Podcast. He discusses the history of the games and what to expect in September.

Go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults and click on the Senior Olympics link under Hot Topics. NVSO is sponsored by the Parks and Recreation departments and other agencies in the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun and Prince William and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church.

Help Create a more Accessible, Inclusive Community for People with Disabilities

Couldn't attend one of the [Fairfax Area Disability Services Board](#)'s Community Forums in May or June? Then this is your opportunity to share your experiences and ideas for making the Fairfax area more inclusive and accessible to people with disabilities. If you've had problems finding a home, getting a job, riding the bus, navigating a sidewalk, securing home-based supports, accessing a facility, getting into a store or restaurant because of your disability, then the DSB wants to know about it. [Submit your comments online](#). The deadline to respond is July 31. The [Fairfax Area Disability Services Board](#) will be developing an action plan based on community input. [Email the DSB](#) if you'd like to get involved with the board's work, or if have any questions about services and resources.

Cooling Assistance

Fairfax County residents who need help keeping their homes cool this summer to prevent a health emergency may be able to receive assistance from two programs, which are administered by the County's Department of Family Services (DFS). Cooling Assistance is a federally-funded program that helps eligible low-income households with at least one person considered especially vulnerable to heat—a child under age six, a person with a disability or an adult age 60 or older—with the costs of cooling their homes. Cooling assistance can be used to help with:

- Payment of electric bills to operate cooling equipment.
- Payment of security deposits for electricity to operate cooling equipment.
- Repair of a central air conditioning system or heat pump.
- Purchase of a whole-house fan, including ceiling or attic fans.
- Purchase and installation of one window unit air conditioner for households where there is no unit or where the unit must be replaced.

Applications for the 2016 Cooling Assistance Program will be accepted June 15-August 15.

For more information or an application form, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/ss/cooling_assistance.

htm, call 703-787-3100, or pick up an application at any of the county's DFS offices:

- Annandale—Heritage Center, West Wing, 7611 Little River Turnpike
- Fairfax—Pennino Building, 12011 Government Center Parkway, 2nd floor

Fan Care is another program that can help older adults stay safe in the summer heat. The electric fan distribution program, is sponsored by Dominion Virginia Power in partnership with the Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Service. The Fan Care program runs through the end of September. For more information or to request an application, call Fairfax County's Department of Family Services, Fairfax Area Agency on Aging, at 703-324-7694.

Community Connections

Aging in Place Presentation

There will be an Aging in Place Presentation on Wednesday, August 17 at 1 p.m. in Braddock Hall (9002 Burke Lake Rd.)

Save the Date to Walk with NAMI-

Join the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Northern Virginia for their 8th annual NAMIWalks event being held at Tysons Corner on the Plaza on Saturday, September 24. The CSB is a proud supporter of the walk, which raises not just awareness about mental illness, but also much-needed funds to support the no-cost services, education and advocacy that NAMI Northern Virginia provides. Advance online registration is available, and on-site registration begins at 9 a.m.; walk kick-off is at 10 a.m.

140 Offerings this fall at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

If you have a passion for learning, over 140 stimulating, diverse, exam-free daytime courses and special events, plus social and cultural activities, are in store for you this fall term (Sept. 19 – Nov. 11, 2016) by joining the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at George Mason University.

OLLI courses, created by members for members, are taught by Washington newsmakers, university professors, regional experts and OLLI members themselves. Courses this fall include: "Explosive Exposés from Watergate to Snowden," and "Engineers of Victory: Problem Solvers Who Turned the Tide in the Second World War,".

OLLI is an independent, thousand-member nonprofit founded in 1991 that offers Northern Virginians a vast array of intellectual, social and cultural experiences throughout the year. Classes are held in Fairfax (4210 Roberts Road, between Braddock Road and Main Street, adjacent to the George Mason campus), Reston and Loudoun County.

If you'd like to get a feel for OLLI, you can sample two class sessions for free. The registration period for fall term classes begins Aug. 15th. Call **703-503-3384**, email olli@gmu.edu, or go to olli.gmu.edu for more information.

Environmental Update

August Stream Monitoring Events

There are plenty of stream monitoring events in August, including regular workshops and certified volunteer monitors who are looking for help during their summer data collection.

[-Thursday, August 25, 5 - 7:30 p.m.: Monitoring of Giles Run in Lorton](#)

[-Saturday, August 27, 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.: Monitoring of Pike's Branch in Franconia](#)

Report on Virginia's Statewide Water Quality

To satisfy the Clean Water Act, states must produce periodic reports on the overall health of their water bodies. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality recently released their most recent report, which details Virginia's water quality conditions from 2007 through 2012. The report is [available online](#), as is a [separate report](#) detailing the contributions of citizen volunteer monitoring groups to water quality data collection.

Seeking Funding for Your HOA's Conservation and Efficiency Projects

Do you want to do something environmentally friendly on your civic association property? Is heavy runoff causing distress in your neighborhood association? Do you have poor energy efficiency in your community's club house? The Conservation District's new Conservation Assistance Program (CAP) can help. It provides technical assistance and up to 50% matching funding for qualifying projects. For more information about CAP - including application deadlines, eligible projects and funding levels - please visit the program webpage at

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/cap/>.

A New Invasive Fish Threat to the Potomac?

You've probably heard of the invasive snakehead and the threat it poses to the Potomac, but what about the much-less-scary-sounding blue catfish? The growing catfish population in the Potomac and other local rivers could spell real trouble for native shad and other species. The good news? Blue catfish are delicious! Learn more about these fish from the [Potomac Conservancy](#), and if you get the chance, put one on your dinner plate.

National Wetlands Report Released

The EPA recently released the first [National Wetlands Condition Report](#), the culmination of a significant partnership between EPA, states, tribes, and other partners under the National Aquatic Resource Surveys program. Key findings from the report include the following:

Less than half of wetland area (48%) is in good condition; 32% is in poor condition and the remaining 20% is in fair condition.

Physical disturbances to wetlands and their surrounding habitat such as compacted soil, ditching, and removal or loss of vegetation, are the most widespread problems across the country.

Nonnative plants are a problem across the country, particularly in the interior plains and west.

Remove Invasive Plants from Fairfax County's Natural Areas

Invasive invaders such as kudzu, wisteria and stilt grass are pushing out important native flora and diminishing the health of our parklands. Help turn the tide against these exotic invaders by joining the Invasive Management Area (IMA) volunteers and pulling these weeds out by their roots. Six workdays are scheduled in August! The IMA volunteer calendar can be [found online](#).

Land Use Update

Popeye's at Twinbrooke Shopping Center (SE 2016-BR-016)

Popeye's presented its revised plans for replacing the vacant Pizza Hut with a new Popeye's Louisiana Kitchen fast food restaurant to the Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee on July 19. In response to questions raised by the committee and by county staff, the applicant is proposing to create five short-term parking spaces between the new structure and Outback, add landscaping, and modify the new building's appearance by putting a brick veneer at the base of the exterior walls to match the brick in the existing shopping center.

Supervisor Cook will hold a community meeting for the applicant to present its proposal on Monday, September 12, at Laurel Ridge Elementary School, 10110 Commonwealth Boulevard in Fairfax, which will begin at 7:30 p.m. Any community member who is interested in this project is encouraged to attend and learn more, and to present your comments and suggestions. A public hearing before the Planning Commission is scheduled for September 29 at 8:15 p.m., to be followed by a hearing before the Board of Supervisors tentatively scheduled for October 18.

Heritage Mall

The Webb Companies and Madison Homes filed a rezoning application for the property consisting of 10.99 acres at Heritage Mall. This follows amendment of the Comprehensive Plan for the area. The applicants propose retaining the four existing retail and office buildings located on the eastern portion of the property; improving the parking lot, landscaping, and plaza associated with the retail/office uses; removing the service station and convenience store; and constructing 69 single-family townhouses on the western portion of the property. An open space area will be provided for the residents' use. The applicants would also provide space in the commercial portion of the property for use as a community center. Supervisor Cook will schedule a community information meeting this fall to consider the proposal after more details are available.

Woodward Property

An application has been filed by Tetra Corporation and Christopher Companies to develop a 2.73 acre tract of land at the intersection of Burke Lake and Coffer Woods Roads. The project proposes nine single-family homes on the site. The applicants presented their proposal to the Braddock District Land Use and Environment Committee, which provided some preliminary feedback regarding traffic safety, tree save, and stormwater. No public hearing dates have yet been scheduled.

Christopher at Kenilworth

The developer is ready to begin clearing at the site, located just east of the State Police Headquarters on Braddock Road, on Monday, August 8. The infill development provides for construction of nine single-family detached homes on the 3.6 acre tract of land.

Chick-fil-A on Burke Centre Parkway (1736-SP-028-1)

The applicant is currently in the bonding process. They plan to begin construction at the site, which is next to the Kohl's department store on Burke Centre Parkway, in the late September/early October time frame. Taking into account the scope of work, unpredictable winter weather, and restriction by the shopping center landlord on construction during the holiday season, Chick-Fil-A is hoping to open in March of 2017.

Saint Mary of Sorrows Church (SP 77-A-041-04)

On July 27, the Board of Zoning Appeals approved an application from Saint Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church to permit building of a new sanctuary building, fellowship hall, and rectory, located at 5222 Sideburn Road and 10500 Zion Drive. This matter did not come before the Board of Supervisors for consideration, but was decided by the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Little Explorers Bilingual Day Care, LLC (SP 2016-BR-011)

The Board of Zoning Appeals on August 3 approved the application of Karen Uribarri-Tibabuzo to expand a home child care facility located at 9932 Lakepointe Court in Burke. Although the original request was to allow up to 12 children and two non-resident employees in the home, the BZA reduced the number to a maximum of eight children due to limited parking. The hours of operation will be from 7:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m., with staggered drop-off and pick-up times.

Expectation Church (SP 2016-BR-002)

The hearing before the Board of Zoning Appeals to consider the Special Permit application for Expectation Church to construct a sanctuary on the former horse boarding facility at 11924 Braddock Road was again deferred and is now scheduled for October 5, 2016. This matter will not come before the Board of Supervisors, but will be decided by the Board of Zoning Appeals.